

GRADE I FLORIDA DERBY, BOOSTED JEFF RUBY STEAKS TOP JAM-PACKED ROAD TO KENTUCKY DERBY SATURDAY

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Thursday, March 25, 2021) – Saturday will arguably be one of the most action-packed days thus far on the Road to Kentucky Derby 147 with a quartet of qualifying races across the globe led by the \$800,000 Florida Derby (Grade I) at Gulfstream Park and the \$250,000 Jeff Ruby Steaks (GIII) at Turfway Park. Both races will award the winner 100 qualifying points to the first Saturday in May. The runner-up will receive 40 points while the third and fourth-place finishers, respectively, will receive 20 and 10 points.

The Japan Road to the Kentucky Derby will conclude early Saturday at Nakayama Racecourse with the Fukuryu Stakes at 2:10 a.m. (all times Eastern)

The stakes action continues Saturday at 10:05 a.m. with the \$750,000 UAE Derby (GII) in Dubai. A full field of 14 runners were drawn Monday and include four Triple Crown nominees: **Godolphin's Rebel Romance**, **Yiji Inaida's France Go De Ina** and **Chuck Fipke's Speight'spercomete**. The race will award the top four finishers points on a 100-40-20-10 scale.

In Florence, Ky., \$100,000 John Battaglia Memorial winner **Hush of a Storm** along with Canadian Grade I winner **Gretzky the Great** top a full field of 12 3-year-olds that were entered in the Jeff Ruby Steaks at 6:25 p.m.

Later at 6:40 p.m., **Courtlandt Farm's** \$400,000 Fountain of Youth (GII) winner **Greatest Honour** will lead an eight-horse field in the Florida Derby.

Wagering on all four races will be available on www.TwinSpires.com.

GREATEST HONOUR MADE 6-5 FAVORITE IN FLORIDA DERBY – **Greatest Honour** will attempt a sweep of Gulfstream's two-turn Kentucky Derby preps when he starts as a heavy favorite in Saturday's \$750,000 Florida Derby (GI). The **Shug McGaughey**-colt has been installed the 6-5 morning line favorite against 10 rivals over one lap of Gulfstream's 1 1/8-mile oval.

Increasing distances have been kind to the son of Tapit during the South Florida winter season. Breaking his maiden the day after Christmas, **Greatest Honour** has built up his credentials further with strong tallies in both the Holy Bull (GIII) and Fountain of Youth (GII) in his last two starts. His early odds for the Florida Derby reflect the gap between him and the rest of the local contingent.

"He's been a pleasure all winter. He's never missed a beat. Things have sort of been the same. We just hope it continues," McGaughey said. "With his stride, I don't think he's a horse with a quick turn of foot, but when he gets going, he covers so much ground that he catches up in a hurry."

Six-time Kentucky Derby-winning trainer **Bob Baffert** has sent **Spielberg** to Florida from California, thus making the Grade II-winning colt the first Florida Derby starter ever for the Hall of Fame trainer. A distant fourth in the Robert B. Lewis (GIII) in his season debut, the Union Rags colt fared better last time when a clear second to champion **Essential Quality** in the Southwest (GIII), although he was caught flat-footed at the start.

"He's had a lot of races," Baffert said. "Once in a while he'll run a flat race. He's doing well and I think he will like the mile and an eighth. He sort of comes running, but he's got to ship well and behave himself. And he's got to break well. He can't break like he did the last time."

The pace of the race figures to come from **Collaborate**, who broke his maiden by more than 12 lengths over a mile last time for **Saffie Joseph Jr.**, or perhaps the **Mark Casse**-trained **Soup and Sandwich**, who's 2-for-2 after a maiden and allowance win earlier this year.

Also among the field are a trio of colts that have tried other Derby preps. **Nova Rags** finished second by a length to stablemate **Candy Man Rocket** in the Sam F. Davis (GIII) last out, while **Known Agenda** was fifth in that same race before taking a track-and-distance allowance over the Gulfstream strip. **Papetu**, who breaks from the far outside, finished a distant fourth in the Holy Bull and third in the Fountain of Youth, suggesting he'll need to improve a number of lengths to catch **Greatest Honour**.

The Florida Derby will award Kentucky Derby qualifying points of 100-40-20-10 to the top four finishers. – **Vance Hanson/Brisnet.com**

ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY TOP 25

#	Horse	Last Jockey	Trainer	Points
1.	Hot Rod Charlie	Joel Rosario	Doug O'Neill	110
2.	Midnight Bourbon	Joe Talamo	Steve Asmussen	66
3.	Greatest Honour	Jose Ortiz	Shug McGaughey	60
4.	Mandaloun	Florent Geroux	Brad Cox	52
5.	Concert Tour	Joel Rosario	Bob Baffert	50
6.	\$-Helium	Jose Ferrer	Mark Casse	50
7.	\$-Weyburn	Trevor McCarthy	Jimmy Jerkens	50
8.	Essential Quality	Florent Geroux	Brad Cox	40
9.	Proxy	John Velazquez	Mike Stidham	34
10.	Medina Spirit	John Velazquez	Bob Baffert	34
11.	O Besos	Marcelino Pedroza	Greg Foley	25
12.	Hidden Stash	Rafael Bejarano	Vicki Oliver	22
13.	Hozier	Martin Garcia	Bob Baffert	20
14.	Crowded Trade	Eric Cancel	Chad Brown	20
15.	Keepmeinmind	David Cohen	Robertino Diodoro	18
16.	Spielberg	Martin Garcia	Bob Baffert	17
17.	Rombauer	Kyle Frey	Michael McCarthy	14
18.	Capo Kane	Dylan Davis	Harold Wyner	12
19.	Papetu	Junior Alvarado	Antonio Sano	11
20.	Moonlite Strike	Daniel Centeno	Saffie Joseph	11
21.	Get Her Number	Javier Castellano	Peter Miller	10
22.	Sittin On Go	Roberto Alvarado	Dale Romans	10
23.	Risk Taking	Eric Cancel	Chad Brown	10
24.	Caddo River	Florent Geroux	Brad Cox	10
25.	Candy Man Rocket	Junior Alvarado	Bill Mott	10

BATTAGLIA MEMORIAL WINNER HUSH OF A STORM, GRADE I WINNER GRETZY THE GREAT TOP JEFF RUBY STEAKS – Joseph P. Morey Trust's \$100,000 John Battaglia Memorial Stakes winner **Hush of a Storm**, along with **Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners** and **Gary Barber's** Grade I-winning colt **Gretzky the Great** top a field of 12 3-year-olds that were entered in Saturday afternoon's 50th running of the \$250,000 Jeff Ruby Steaks (GIII) – the premiere stakes event at Turfway Park's meet.

The Jeff Ruby Steaks is one of six stakes events on Saturday's 12-race afternoon spectacular at Turfway, which begins at 1:10 p.m. (all times Eastern). The centerpiece 1 1/8-mile race over the synthetic Tapeta surface is carded as Race 11 with a post time of 6:25 p.m.

The Jeff Ruby Steaks will award the top four finishers points on a 100-40-20-10 scale towards a spot in the starting gate for the \$3 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (GI).

The other stakes races on Saturday's card are the \$150,000 Bourbonette Oaks (Listed), a Championship Series race on the Road to the Kentucky Oaks worth 50-20-10-5 points to the \$1.25 million Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI); \$150,000 TwinSpires.com Kentucky Cup Classic (Listed); the \$100,000 Rushaway; the \$100,000 Latonia Stakes; and the \$65,000 Animal Kingdom Stakes.

Hush of a Storm, trained by **Bill Morey** and ridden by **Santiago Gonzalez**, was the 1 1/2-length winner of the Feb. 26 Battaglia Memorial, the local prep for the Jeff Ruby Steaks. The Creative Cause colt had to survive an inquiry and objection in the race after he lugged in and appeared to affect fellow rivals **Like the King**, Gretzky the Great and **Hard Rye Guy** in the stretch. Following a review of the race, the stewards issued no change to the order of finish. Hush of a Storm is a perfect 3-for-3 over the Tapeta surface at Turfway. He broke his maiden by 5 1/2 lengths on Dec. 19 and followed up that win three weeks later with a half-length first-level allowance score. His only blemish came in a seven-furlong maiden claiming \$150,000 race over the dirt at Churchill Downs. Hush of a Storm drew post No. 2.

One of the other top rivals in the Jeff Ruby Steaks is \$250,000 Summer (GI) winner Gretzky the Great. Named after the NHL Hall of Famer **Wayne Gretzky**, the Nyquist colt was the even-money favorite in the Battaglia Memorial. In that race, he was pressured on the lead for nearly one-mile before giving way to Hush of a Storm. The **Mark Casse**-trainee will get a jockey change to **Chris Landeros** for the Jeff Ruby Steaks and will break from post 10.

Another horse likely to garner attention in the race is **SF Racing**, **Starlight Racing**, **Madaket Stables**, **Stonestreet Stables**, **Golconda Stable**, **Siena Farm** and **Robert Masterson's** \$200,000 Holy Bull (GIII) runner-up **Tarantino**. Trained by **Rodolphe Brisset**, Tarantino began his career on turf at Del Mar in the barn of Hall of Fame trainer **Bob Baffert**. He finished second in the \$101,000 Zuma Beach at Santa Anita prior to his transfer to Brisset. Immediately after he entered Brisset's string in South Florida, he defeated six rivals in a first-level allowance over the turf at Gulfstream Park. His most recent start was a fourth-place finish in the \$300,000 Fountain of Youth (GII) where he was defeated 5 1/4 lengths by **Greatest Honour**. Jockey **Florent Geroux** will ride from post 7.

PAST PERFORMANCES

Brinset.com Kentucky Derby Contenders Past Performances
<https://bit.ly/3p728Wp>

Florida Derby Past Performances
<https://bit.ly/3tT5n6r>

Jeff Ruby Steaks Past Performances
<https://bit.ly/39antcj>

UAE Past Performances
<https://bit.ly/2PwvW2g>

Kentucky Derby Future Wager Past Performances
<https://bit.ly/3ffgzqa>

The complete field from the rail out (with jockey and trainer): Like the King (Drayden Van Dyke, Wesley Ward); Hush of a Storm (Gonzalez, Morey); **King's Ovation** (Albin Jimenez, Dale Romans); **Awesome Gerry** (Martin Garcia, Saffie Joseph Jr.); **Sainthood** (Gerardo Corrales, Todd Pletcher); **Smiley Sobotka** (Declan Cannon, Romans); Tarantino (Geroux, Brisset); **Moonlite Strike** (Rafael Hernandez, Joseph); Hard Rye Guy (Brian Hernandez Jr. Ian Wilkes); Gretzky the Great (Landeros, Casse); **Dyn O Mite** (Deshawn Parker, Keith Desormeaux); and **Hockey Dad** (Rafael Bejarano, Doug O'Neill).

Hard Rye Guy and Hockey Dad were not nominated to the Triple Crown at the early closing but could become eligible with a \$6,000 late payment that is due on Monday.

The National Weather Service forecast for Florence, Ky. calls for a gorgeous afternoon of racing with sunny skies and a high temperature of 71 degrees.

JAPANESE, AMERICAN SHIPPERS TACKLE TALENTED LOCALS IN UAE DERBY – Saturday's \$750,000 UAE Derby (GII) has attracted an international field in keeping with its venue, the Dubai World Cup program at Meydan. American shippers **Ambivalent** and **Lugamo** will line up against Japanese contenders as well as a talented home team including fillies **Soft Whisper** and **Mnasek**. The only foreign scoring race on the main Road to the Kentucky Derby, the UAE Derby offers points on the 100-40-20-10 scale applicable to the U.S. leaderboard.

Four of the 14 entrants are coming off the Feb. 20 Saudi Derby on Saudi Cup Day – Japan's **Pink Kamehameha**, who sprang an upset in his dirt debut; third-placer **New Treasure**, an Irish Group III scorer who was also trying dirt for the first time; and the well-fancied **Godolphin** duo of **Rebel's Romance** and **Soft Whisper**, respectively fourth and fifth. All are stretching out from that metric mile to the about 1 3/16 miles of the UAE Derby.

Much more had been expected from Rebel's Romance and Soft Whisper in Saudi, and a return to Meydan could see both offspring of Dubawi bounce back to top form. The previously unbeaten Rebel's Romance had edged next-out UAE 2000 Guineas (GIII) winner **Mouheeb** on this track. A U.S. Triple Crown nominee, Rebel's Romance bids to give trainer **Charlie Appleby** and jockey **William Buick** their first UAE Derby victory.

Godolphin colleague **Saeed bin Suroor**, who has won a record eight UAE Derby trophies, relies on Soft Whisper. The highly regarded filly brought a four-race winning streak to Saudi, capped by a seven-length romp in the UAE 1000 Guineas over Mnasek. If we see that Soft Whisper here, the boys could be in trouble. Note that bin Suroor is responsible for the only filly to win the UAE Derby so far, **Khawlah** (2011).

Mnasek herself has claims. The **Doug Watson** filly had no chance of catching Soft Whisper thanks to a slow start in the Guineas, but she roared back to outclass her foes by 6 ½ lengths in the UAE Oaks (GIII) at this track and trip. The Kentucky-bred daughter of Empire Maker banked 50 points toward the Kentucky Oaks (GI), if connections are inclined to supplement her. Like Soft Whisper, Mnasek gets a four-pound weight concession from the 3-year-old males. Adding to her appeal, both of Watson's past UAE Oaks winners went on to finish second in this race, **Polar River** (2016) and **Rayya** (2018).

Carded as the fifth of nine races on the Dubai World Cup program, the UAE Derby is scheduled for 10:05 a.m. (ET), and you can watch and wager at TwinSpies.com. Read more at <https://www.kentuckyderby.com/horses/news/japanese-american-shippers-tackle-talented-locals-in-uae-derby>. – **Kellie Reilly/Brisnet.com**

UPCOMING ROAD TO THE DERBY RACES

Date	Race	Track	Top 4 Points
March 27	Jeff Ruby Steaks	TP	100-40-20-10
March 27	UAE Derby	Meydan	100-40-20-10
March 27	Florida Derby	GP	100-40-20-10
March 27	Fukuryu#	Nakayama	40-16-8-4
April 1	Cardinal Condition*	Chelmsford	30-12-6-3
April 3	Wood Memorial	Aqu	100-40-20-10
April 3	Blue Grass	Kee	100-40-20-10
April 3	Santa Anita Derby	SA	100-40-20-10
April 10	Arkansas Derby	OP	100-40-20-10
April 10	Lexington	Kee	20-8-4-2

Japan Road to the Kentucky Derby

* European Road to the Kentucky Derby

NEXT STOP

After Saturday's action, the Road to the Kentucky Derby Championship Series will reach its penultimate weekend with the first Saturday in May approaching fast.

Next's Saturday's action will feature the \$800,000 Blue Grass Stakes (GII) at Keeneland that will be headlined by champion **Essential Quality**. Other races include the \$750,000 Santa Anita Derby (GI) and \$750,000 Wood Memorial (GII).

Following this Saturday's quartet of races, there are only five races left on the Road to the Kentucky Derby Championship series.

DERBY DETAIL

EARLY DERBY FAVORITE LIFE IS GOOD SIDELINED WITH ANKLE INJURY – Early Kentucky Derby 147 favorite **Life Is Good** has been sidelined and is scheduled to have surgery on Friday to remove a small chip from his left hind ankle, according to trainer **Bob Baffert**.

The colt is expected to resume training later this spring.

FIRST DERBY HORSES ARRIVE AT CHURCHILL DOWNS IN COMING DAYS

– The first horses that will be preparing for the May 1 Kentucky Derby are expected to arrive in the coming days to Churchill Downs. One of the first scheduled arrivals is **Bryan Bernard, Tagg Team Racing** and **West Point Thoroughbreds'** Louisiana Derby (GII) third-place finisher **O Besos**. The colt is expected to ship from Fair Grounds on Friday evening and arrive early Saturday morning at Churchill Downs, according to trainer Greg Foley.

Another early arrival will be **Godolphin's** champion **Essential Quality**. The colt is likely to arrive next week to Churchill Downs following his scheduled Saturday work at Fair Grounds in New Orleans.

DOWN THE STRETCH – **Big Lake**, the third-place finisher of the \$1 million Rebel (GII), was sidelined earlier this week due to a condylar fracture and will miss the Kentucky Derby. ... There are approximately 100 horses that have arrived to the Churchill Downs backstretch as of Thursday morning. Trainers **Juan Cano, Mark Casse, Norm Casse, Greg Foley** and **Michael McCarthy** are among the first to arrive. ... The late nomination period for the Triple Crown will close on Monday. Nominations can be made online at www.thetriplecrown.com.

KENTUCKY DERBY RUNDOWN

Fukuryu Stakes

Saturday, March 27, 3yo, 1 1/8 miles, 2:10 a.m., Points: 40-16-8-4. Watch and Wager: TwinSpies.com.

Early Entries:

Horse	Jockey	Trainer	ML
+Ca Va (Jpn)	Hironobu Tanabe	Hirofumi Uemura	
+Giuditta (Jpn)	Kohei Matsuyama	Koichi Ishizaka	
+Glanz Atem (Jpn)	Norihiro Yokoyama	Tadashige Nakagawa	
+God Selection (Jpn)	Yuji Nakai	Teiichi Konno	
+Gold Higher (Jpn)	Yakeshi Yokoyama	Ryuji Okubo	
+Ladybug (Jpn)	Manabu Sakai	Yoshihito Kitade	
+Lance of Earth (Jpn)	Shu Ishibashi	Masaru Honda	
+Lord Storm (Jpn)	Kosei Miura	Hisashi Shimizu	
+Meisho Murakumo (Jpn)	Yoshitomi Shibata	Yusuke Wada	
+Miko Black (Jpn)	Akihide Tsumura	Hidekazu Asami	
+T Up Leon (Jpn)	Hirofumi Uchida	Masashi Okuhira	
+Taisei Again (Jpn)	Takuya Ono	Takeshi Matsushita	
+Taisei Slugger (Jpn)	Mirco Demuro	Yutaka Takahashi	
+Your History (Jpn)	Yukito Ishikawa	Manabu Ikezoe	

UAE Derby (Group II)

Saturday, March 27, \$750,000, 3yo, 1 3/16, Meydan (R4), Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10. 10:05 a.m. ET. TV: NBCSN, Fox Sports 1, Bet: TwinSpies.com

# Horse	Jockey	Trainer	ML
11. Speight'spercomete	Pat Dobbs	Doug Watson	15-1
1. +El Patriota (4yo)	Vagner Leal	A.L. Cintra Pereira	15-1
6. +Mouheeb	Ryan Curatolo	Nicholas Bachalard	8-1
13. +f-Mnasek	Sam Hitchcott	Doug Watson	6-1
5. +Lugamo	Oisin Murphy	Antonio Sano	50-1
8. +Panadol	Mickael Barzalona	Salem bin Ghadayer	9-2
12. +Takeru Pegasus (Jpn)	Ryan Moore	Yukihiro Kato	10-1
2. +Ambivalent	Luis Saez	Doug O'Neill	20-1
14. +f-Soft Whisper (Ire)	Pat Cosgrove	Saeed bin Suroor	12-1
4. France Go de Ina	Joel Rosario	Hideyuki Mori	6-1
10. g-Rebel's Romance	William Buick	Charlie Appleby	15-1
3. Fire Group	Antonio Fresu	Musabbeh Al Mheiri	50-1
7. +g-New Treasure (Ire)	Frankie Dettori	John Gosden	20-1
9. Pink Kamechameha (Jpn)	Keita Tosaki	Hideyuki Mori	8-1

KENTUCKY DERBY RUNDOWN

Jeff Ruby Steaks (Grade III)

Saturday, March 27, \$250,000, 3yo, 1 1/8 (Tapeta), Turfway Park (R11), Top 4
Points: 100-40-20-10. 6:25 p.m. ET. TV: NBCSN, Bet: TwinSpire.com

#	Horse	Jockey	Trainer	ML
1.	Like the King	Drayden Van Dyke	Wesley Ward	6-1
2.	Hush of a Storm	Santiago Gonzalez	Bill Moree	4-1
3.	King's Ovation	Albin Jimenez	Dale Romans	15-1
4.	Awesome Gerry	Martin Garcia	Saffie Joseph Jr.	20-1
5.	Sainthood	Gerardo Corrales	Todd Pletcher	12-1
6.	Smiley Sobotka	Declan Cannon	Dale Romans	15-1
7.	Tarantino	Florent Geroux	Rodolphe Brisset	3-1
8.	Moonlite Strike	Rafael Hernandez	Saffie Joseph Jr.	12-1
9.	+Hard Rye Guy	Brian Hernandez Jr.	Ian Wilkes	10-1
10.	Gretzky the Great	Chris Landeros	Mark Casse	5-1
11.	Dyn O Mite	Deshawn Parker	Keith Desormeaux	15-1
12.	+Hockey Dad	Rafael Bejarano	Doug O'Neill	10-1

Florida Derby (Grade I)

Saturday, March 27, \$800,000, 3yo, 1 1/8, Gulfstream Park (R14), Top 4
Points: 100-40-20-10. 6:40 p.m. ET. TV: NBCSN, Bet: TwinSpire.com

#	Horse	Jockey	Trainer	ML
1.	Nova Rags	Junior Alvarado	Bill Mott	12-1
2.	+Quantum Leap	Miguel Vazquez	Ian Wilkes	20-1
3.	Jirafales	Edgard Zayas	Gustavo Delgado	30-1
4.	+Southern Passage	Corey Lanerie	Dale Romans	30-1
5.	Known Agenda	Irad Ortiz Jr.	Todd Pletcher	5-1
6.	+Sigiloso	Leonel Reyes	Antonio Sano	30-1
7.	Greatest Honour	Jose Ortiz	Shug McGaughey III	6-5
8.	Soup and Sandwich	John Velazquez	Mark Casse	20-1
9.	Collaborate	Tyler Gaffalione	Saffie Joseph Jr.	6-1
10.	Spielberg	Javier Castellano	Bob Baffert	4-1
11.	Papetu	Emisael Jaramillo	Antonio Sano	15-1

+ = Not Triple Crown Nominated

SCULLY'S DERBY REPORT

Hot Rod Charlie switched tactics to record his initial stakes win, posting a front-running triumph in Saturday's \$1 million TwinSpire.com Louisiana Derby (GII) at Fair Grounds. He earned a 100-point prize for winning the first of eight major Kentucky Derby qualifiers.

Based in Southern California, Hot Rod Charlie also showed an affinity for longer distances on the stretch out to 1 3/16 miles.

The Kentucky Derby unfortunately lost a major player over the weekend when early favorite **Life Is Good** was declared due to a minor injury. The exciting speedster had been favored in the first four pools of the Kentucky Derby Future Wager (KDFW).

Pool 5 of the KDFW opens its three-day run on Friday, providing bettors with a final opportunity to get early pari-mutuel action on the 147th running of the Kentucky Derby on May 1.

Louisiana Derby

Hot Rod Charlie broke through after placing in his first two stakes attempts.

The dark bay needed four starts to notch his first win, narrowly capturing a five-horse maiden special weight at Santa Anita in early October, and he outran his 94-1 odds when finishing a close second in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (GI) at Keeneland next out.

His 3-year-old campaign began with another solid showing from off the pace, closing to finish a neck third in the Jan. 30

Robert B. Lewis Stakes (GIII) at Santa Anita. Nobody expected the stalker to be showing the way in the Louisiana Derby.

Hot Rod Charlie didn't get away cleanly from the starting gate, but **Joel Rosario** quickly got him straightened out and aimed his mount straight for the lead, taking a short advantage into the first turn.

I liked the improved speed displayed in the Louisiana Derby, it's a favorable trait for an up-and-coming sophomore.

Midnight Bourbon pressured the pacesetter from the start and loomed a serious threat when drawing alongside at the head of the stretch. Winner of the Lecomte (GIII) and third in the Risen Star (GII), Midnight Bourbon appeared to have plenty left for the final furlongs, but Hot Rod Charlie had more in reserve as well, turning back the challenge to win going away by two lengths under the wire.

Off as the 5-2 second choice, Hot Rod Charlie registered a 96 Brisnet Speed rating at the seldom-used distance. The Oxbow colt did earn a triple-digit number for his runner-up effort in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile.

Hot Rod Charlie won't be able to dictate terms in the Kentucky Derby, but the dark bay is versatile enough to make his own trip during the early stages. He's owned by **Roadrunner Racing, Boat Racing and William Strauss**.

Midnight Bourbon weakened slightly in the latter stages of his last two outings, but the hard-knocking type has been in a prime spot to win turning for home in three stakes appearances this season. He's never finished out of the money from seven career outings, and Hall of Fame trainer **Steve Asmussen** can get a longshot ready for the Kentucky Derby, finishing second with **Lookin at Lee** at 33-1 in 2017.

O Besos didn't make an impact when making his first stakes attempt in the Risen Star, but the Orb colt got on track in the Louisiana Derby stretch, rallying to miss second by a head. The late runner has some upside for **Greg Foley**.

Proxy lost ground through the latter stages, checking in fourth as the 3-1 third choice. Risen Star winner **Mandaloun** was in position to challenge before coming up empty in the stretch, giving way to be a well-beaten sixth. **Brad Cox** and **Florent Geroux** had no explanation for the puzzling performance, both being optimistic that it's a one-off performance, and the 13-10 favorite will try to rebound at Churchill Downs.

Up Next

One of three major qualifiers this weekend, Saturday's \$800,000 Florida Derby (GI) will feature **Greatest Honour**, who will seek a sweep of Gulfstream Park's qualifiers after taking the Fountain of Youth (GII) and Holy Bull (GIII).

Greatest Honour didn't corner well in the Fountain of Youth, failing to advance until being guided into the clear at the conclusion of the far turn, and it will be interesting to see how **Jose Ortiz** rides him on Saturday.

A full field of 12 has been entered for Jeff Ruby Steaks (GIII) at Turfway Park, which has been added as a 170-point qualifier this season. The top four finishers from the Feb. 26 John Battaglia Memorial Stakes – **Hush of a Storm, Like the King, Gretzky the Great**, and **Hard Rye Guy** – are all back for the 1 1/8-mile Tapeta test.

Horses shipping in for the Jeff Ruby include **Sainthood**, who will jump straight to stakes competition for **Todd**

Pletcher after a Fair Grounds maiden win; Holy Bull runner-up **Tarantino**; and last-out Santa Anita turf allowance winner **Hockey Dad**.

Fourteen runners are set for the \$750,000 UAE Derby (GII), which is part of the Saturday's Dubai World Cup program at Meydan. — **James Scully/Brisnet.com**

FUTURE WAGER

Godolphin's undefeated champion colt **Essential Quality** was made the 3-1 morning line favorite in the field of 24 betting options for Pool 5 of the Kentucky Derby Future Wager ("KDFW") that will span Friday-Sunday.

Pool 5 of the KDFW is the final pari-mutuel opportunity for bettors to get early action prior to the 147th running of the \$3 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (Grade I) on Saturday, May 1. The three-day pool opens Friday at noon (all times Eastern) and will close Sunday at 6 p.m. Wagering will be available on www.TwinSpires.com and other outlets.

Trained by **Brad Cox**, **Essential Quality** is currently based at Fair Grounds and is preparing for the April 3, \$800,000 Blue Grass Stakes (GII) at Keeneland. The Tapit colt most recently defeated six rivals, including fellow KDFW entrant **Spielberg**, in the \$750,000 Southwest Stakes (GIII) at Oaklawn. **Essential Quality** is one of three Cox trainees in Pool 5. The others are **Shortleaf Stables'** \$150,000 Smarty Jones winner **Caddo River** and **Juddmonte Farm's** \$400,000 Risen Star (GII) hero **Mandaloun**.

One of Hall of Fame trainer **Bob Baffert's** top Derby contenders, **Life Is Good**, was removed from contention for this year's race because he is scheduled to undergo surgery March 26 to remove a small chip in his left hind ankle. Baffert is still well-stocked for the Kentucky Derby with **Gary and Mary West's** undefeated colt **Concert Tour**. The son of 2007 Kentucky Derby winner Street Sense is targeting the \$1 million Arkansas Derby (GI) on April 10 following his victory in the \$1 million Rebel (GII). Along with **Concert Tour**, the Baffert army also includes **Zedan Racing Stables'** \$100,000 Robert B. Lewis (GIII) winner **Medina Spirit** along with **SF Racing, Starlight Racing, Madaket Stables, Stonestreet Stables, Golconda Stable, Siena Farm** and **Robert Masterson's** Rebel runner-up **Hozier** and Southwest runner-up **Spielberg**.

Another horse likely to garner attention in Pool 5 of the KDFW is **Courtlandt Farm's** \$300,000 Fountain of Youth (GII) winner **Greatest Honour**. Campaigned by 2013 Kentucky Derby winning trainer **Shug McGaughey III**, **Greatest Honour** is the likely favorite in Saturday's \$800,000 Florida Derby (GI).

The complete field for Pool 5 of the KDFW (with trainer, morning line odds): #1 ~~Big Lake~~ (SCRATCHED); #2 **Caddo River** (Cox, 30-1); #3 **Collaborate** (Saffie Joseph Jr., 30-1); #4 **Concert Tour** (Baffert, 9-2); #5 **Crowded Trade** (Chad Brown, 30-1); #6 **Dream Shake** (Peter Eurton, 50-1); #7 **Essential Quality** (Cox, 3-1); #8 **Greatest Honour** (McGaughey, 4-1); #9 **Helium** (Mark Casse, 30-1); #10 **Hidden Stash** (Vicki Oliver, 50-1); #11 **Highly Motivated** (Brown, 30-1); #12 **Hot Rod Charlie** (Doug O'Neill, 6-1); #13 **Hozier** (Baffert, 30-1); #14 **Mandaloun** (Cox, 30-1); #15 **Medina Spirit** (Baffert, 20-1); #16 **Midnight Bourbon** (Asmussen, 30-1); #17 **O Besos** (Greg Foley, 50-1); #18 **Prevalence** (Brendan Walsh, 20-1); #19 **Proxy** (Mike Stidham,

30-1); #20 **Risk Taking** (Brown, 30-1); #21 **Rock Your World** (John Sadler, 50-1); #22 **Spielberg** (Baffert, 50-1); #23 **Weyburn** (Jimmy Jerkens, 30-1); #24 "All Other 3-Year-Olds" (20-1).

There are 10 races remaining on the Road to the Kentucky Derby. The remaining race schedule can be found at www.kentuckyderby.com/horses/prep-races.

The Kentucky Derby Future Wager, which features \$2 Win and Exacta wagering, provide fans of Thoroughbred racing with opportunities to place bets on possible entrants in the Kentucky Derby at odds that could be far greater than those available on the day of the race.

There are no refunds in the Kentucky Derby Future Wager. Should Churchill Downs officials determine during the duration of this week's three-day pool that one of the wagering interests has experienced an injury, illness or other circumstance that would prevent the horse from participating in the Kentucky Derby, betting on the individual horse will be suspended immediately.

More information and real-time odds are available online at www.KentuckyDerby.com/FutureWager.

LONGINES KENTUCKY OAKS UPDATE

GRADE I PLACED CRAZY BEAUTIFUL MADE 5-2 FAVORITE IN GULFSTREAM PARK OAKS — **Phoenix Thoroughbreds'** Grade I-placed **Crazy Beautiful** was made the 5-2 morning line favorite against six 3-year-old filly rivals in Saturday's \$200,000 Gulfstream Park Oaks (GII) — a Road to the Kentucky Oaks Championship Series race.

The 1 1/16-mile Gulfstream Park Oaks is slated as Race 12 with a post time of 5:17 p.m. (all times Eastern). The race will award the Top 4 finishers points on a 100-40-20-10 scale.

Trained by **Kenny McPeck**, **Crazy Beautiful** won the first two starts of her career which included a victory in the \$100,000 Debutante Stakes at Ellis Park. The daughter of Liam's Map finished second in the \$200,000 Pocahontas (GIII) at Churchill Downs prior to her runner-up effort behind her stablemate **Simply Ravishing** in the \$350,000 Ashland (GI) at Keeneland. In her most recent start, **Crazy Beautiful** finished second to **Wholebodemeister** in the \$200,000 Davona Dale (GII), the local prep for this event. **Crazy Beautiful** will get a change of jockey for the Gulfstream Park Oaks to **Jose Ortiz** from **Robby Albarado** and will break from post No. 3.

The full field for the Gulfstream Park Oaks from the rail out (with jockey, trainer and morning line odds): **Con Lima** (Irak Ortiz Jr., Todd Pletcher, 3-1); **Bow Bow Girl** (Corey Lanerie, Dale Romans, 8-1); **Crazy Beautiful** (Ortiz, McPeck, 5-2); **Pens Street** (Miguel Vazquez, Rohan Crichton, 9-2); **Len Lo Lady** (John Velazquez, Romans, 12-1); **Millefeuille** (Tyler Gaffalione, Bill Mott, 7-2); **Competitive Speed** (Leonel Reyes, Javier Gonzalez, 8-1).

STAKES WINNERS OLIVIAOFTHEDESERT, WAIT FOR NAIROBI TOP \$100,000 BOURBONETTE OAKS — **Susan Moulton's** \$60,000 Trapeze Stakes winner **Oliviaofthedesert** along with **Hartwell Farm** and **SF Racing's** \$65,000 Cincinnati Trophy winner **Wait for Nairobi** top a field of 10 fillies that were entered in Saturday's \$100,000 Bourbonette Oaks (Listed).

The race also includes Godolphin's last-out maiden winner **Adventuring**, who defeated seven rivals by 6 ½ lengths at Fair

Grounds for trainer **Brad Cox**. The one-mile Bourbonette Oaks is carded as Race 10 with at post time of 5:45 p.m. (ET).

The full field from the rail out (with jockey and trainer): **Speeding** (Santiago Gonzalez, Mark Casse); **Roll Up Mo Money** (Drayden Van Dyke, Kenny McPeck); Oliviaofthedesert (Brian Hernandez Jr., McPeck); Wait for Nairobi (Edgar Morales, Rey Hernandez); **Spritz** (Gerardo Corrales, Rodolphe Brisset); **California Lily** (Rafael Hernandez, Casse); **Into Vanishing** (Chris Landeros, Jonathan Thomas); Adventuring (Florent Geroux, Cox); **Forever Boss** (Perry Ouzts, McPeck); **Candace O** (Rafael Bejarano, Graham Motion).

ROAD TO THE LONGINES KENTUCKY OAKS TOP 20

#	Horse	Trainer	Points
1.	Travel Column	Brad Cox	132
2.	Clairiere	Steve Asmussen	94
3.	Will's Secret	Dallas Stewart	60
4.	Wholebodemeister	Juan Carlos Avila	52
5.	Search Results	Chad Brown	50
6.	Beautiful Gift	Bob Baffert	50
7.	Kalypso	Bob Baffert	28
8.	Crazy Beautiful	Kenny McPeck	28
9.	Vequist	Butch Reid Jr.	24
10.	Souper Sensational	Mark Casse	24
11.	Moraz	Michael McCarthy	22
12.	Miss Brazil	Tony Dutrow	20
13.	The Grass Is Blue	Chad Brown	20
14.	Pauline's Pearl	Steve Asmussen	20
15.	Dayoutoftheoffice	Tim Hamm	18
16.	Girl Daddy	Dale Romans	14
17.	Simply Ravishing	Kenny McPeck	13
18.	Moon Swag	Brendan Walsh	12
19.	Sun Path	Brad Cox	11
20.	Malathaat	Todd Pletcher	10

Bold: running this weekend

TAKING SHAPE

The possible fields for Kentucky Derby Championship Series races are fluid as owners and trainers vie for points on the "Road to the Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve." Below are known horses mentioned to be under consideration for each race based on published news reports and other sources.

WOOD MEMORIAL (GII)

Saturday, April 3, \$750,000, 3yo, 1 1/8 M, Aqueduct, Ozone, N.Y., Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10.

Horse (Points)	Trainer	Brisnet.com Prime Power	Run Style
Known Likely Starters:			
Weyburn (50)	Jimmy Jerkens	140.2	E 8
Crowded Trade (20)	Chad Brown	139.1	P 4
Brooklyn Strong (10)	Daniel Velazquez	136.1	E/P 5
Risk Taking (10)	Chad Brown	133.6	P 3
Overttook (4)	Todd Pletcher	127.1	S 2
Dynamic One (0)	Todd Pletcher	127.1	E/P 5
Nicky the Vest (0)	Jonathan Thomas	135.2	E 1
Known Possible Starters:			
Rombauer (14)	Michael McCarthy	136.4	S 0
Prevalence (0)	Brendan Walsh	131.9	E 6

BLUE GRASS (GII)

Saturday, April 3, \$1 million, 3yo, 1 1/8 M, Keeneland, Lexington, Ky., Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10.

Horse (Points)	Trainer	Brisnet.com Prime Power	Run Style
Known Likely Starters:			
Essential Quality (40)	Brad Cox	146.3	E/P 4
Hidden Stash (22)	Vicki Oliver	135.4	P 2
Highly Motivated (10)	Chad Brown	143.0	P 1

SANTA ANITA DERBY (GI)

Saturday, April 3, \$1 million, 3yo, 1 1/8 M, Santa Anita, Arcadia, Calif., Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10.

Horse (Points)	Trainer	Brisnet.com Prime Power	Run Style
Known Likely Starters:			
Medina Spirit (34)	Bob Baffert	139.0	E 1
Dream Shake (10)	Peter Eurton	133.1	S 2
Roman Centiruan (9)	Simon Callaghan	132.2	S 0
The Great One (4)	Doug O'Neill	134.4	E/P 6
Rock Your World (0)	John Sadler	134.2	E/P 6
Defunded (0)	Bob Baffert	125.9	P 4
Known Possible Starters:			
Rombauer (14)	Michael McCarthy	136.4	S 0

ARKANSAS DERBY (GI)

Saturday, April 10, \$1 million, 3yo, 1 1/8 M, Oaklawn Park, Hot Springs, Ark., Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10.

Horse (Points)	Trainer	Brisnet.com Prime Power	Run Style
Known Likely Starters:			
Concert Tour (50)	Bob Baffert	142.9	E/P 8
Hozier (20)	Bob Baffert	130.6	P 1
Keepmeinmind (18)	Robertino Diodoro	135.8	S 1
Caddo River (10)	Brad Cox	142.6	E 8
Known Possible Starters:			
Prevalence (0)	Brendan Walsh	131.9	E 6

LEXINGTON (GIII)

Saturday, April 10, \$200,000, 3yo, 1 1/16 M, Keeneland, Lexington, Ky., Top 4 Points: 20-8-4-2.

-END-